

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BONN
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 187110

LIMDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT PONTA DELGADA 280 ACTION SECSTATE INFO
LISBON COMUSFORAZ LAJES FLD AZORES DTD 07 AUG

QTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PONTA DELGADA 280

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PO
SUBJ: AZOREAN SITUATION: GROWTH OF SUPPORT FOR INDEPENDENCE

1. ATMOSPHERE IN PONTA DELGADA IS CHARGED. SMALLEST INCIDENT, INCLUDING ARRIVAL OF OFFICIAL USG VISITORS, PRODUCES EXTENSIVE RUMORS. WE ARE BEGINNING TO HEAR COMMENTS RE POST INDEPENDENCE GOVERNMENT; SOME WANT INDEPENDENCE WITHOUT CONSERVATIVE FLA LEADERS. SPORADIC ANTI-COMMUNIST VIOLENCE HAS OCCURRED. TWICE PCP MEMBERS HAVE BEEN ATTACKED, AND EARLY MORNING OF AUGUST 5 PONTA DELGADA HEADQUARTERS OF MDP/CDE BURNED. MILITARY COMMAND HAS ISSUED COMMUNIQUE LAMENTING VIOLENCE AND PROMISING TO PUNISH THOSE RESPONSIBLE REGARDLESS OF POLITICS.
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2. LOCAL PS LEADER TOLD ME THAT HE PERSONALLY OPPOSES INDEPENDENCE BECAUSE AZORES ARE NOT VIABLE AND WOULD BE DEPENDENT ON USG, BUT RECOGNIZES THAT MAJORITY AZOREANS FAVOR IT DUE TO STRONG ANTI-COMMUNIST SENTIMENT. RAPID GROWTH OF POPULARITY

OF INDEPENDENCE IS RESULT OF CURRENT POLITICAL CRISIS ON
CONTINENT. IN ADDITION, HE SAID NO ONE BELIEVES GOP PROMISES
OF ASSISTANCE, BUT THINK DEVELOPMENT POSSIBLE IF CONTROL OF
ECONOMIC DECISIONS IN LOCAL HANDS. SOURCE BELIEVES INDEPENDENCE
PROBABLE IF COMMUNIST DICTATORSHIP INSTALLED IN PORTUGAL AND
POSSIBLE IF RIGHTIST DICTATORSHIP ESTABLISHED. HE EXPLAINED
THAT PS FAVORS EXTENSIVE AUTONOMY FOR AZORES, BUT RECOGNIZES
THAT TRUE AUTONOMY ONLY POSSIBLE IN DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST
PORTUGAL. SOURCE EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT PROPOSED JUNTA GOVERNA-
TIVA WOULD HAVE FINANCIAL AND POLITICAL RESOURCES NECESSARY TO
DO ANYTHING CONCRETE FOR AZORES.

3. COMMENT: APPEARS TO US THAT ONLY A SHIFT OF POWER TOWARDS
MODERATES IN LISBON WILL STOP GROWING MOMENTUM BEHIND INDE-
PENDENCE MOVEMENT.
PFEIFLE UNQTE KISSINGER

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